GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:799
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
SUICIDE BY FARMERS
Ajnala Dr. Rattan Singh;Chakraborty Shri Ajay;Chaure Shri Bapu Hari;Krishnadas Shri N.N.;Masood Shri Rasheed;Mollah Shri Hannan;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Singh Shri Dushyant;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an increase in the number of cases of suicides by farmers have been reported in the country recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) whether the increasing number of suicide cases indicate the failure of the efforts made by the Government so far on this account;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the Government has prepared any specific plan to prevent suicide by the farmers in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof; and reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(f): A statement indicating the number of suicides by farmers as reported by the respective State Governments is annexed. As reported by the State Governments, the causes for suicide by farmers are broadly crop failure, indebtedness, drought, social and economic insecurity.

To address the problem of suicide by farmers, Government of India has approved a Rehabilitation Package amounting to Rs.16978.69 crore, for 31 districts spread over the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The Package consisting of short term and long term measures is being implemented since July, 2006. It aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply of institutional credit, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services and subsidiary income opportunities.Progress of implementation of rehabilitation package is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis at District, State and Central level.

In order to address the problems of farmers, Government has launched two new Schemes namely, National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains in the country and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in Agriculture and allied sectors and to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing Agriculture and allied sector schemes, with an outlay of Rs. 4882.48 and Rs.25,000 crore respectively during 11th Plan period. Besides, a number of Policy initiatives, Plan Schemes and programmes are being implemented which include revitalization of the agricultural extension services, marketing reforms, horticulture development, Macro Management schemes providing adequate flexibility to the States for implementing suitable schemes/projects and provision of adequate institutional credit.